

goal for the next century, then not only will humankind be better off throughout the world, but the economy of the United States, the enterprise of the United States, the leadership of the United States will continue in wondrous ways for the benefit of our people, because when we talk about an attempt, a bold attempt, to eradicate disease from the face of the Earth, are we not talking about trade between countries on matters that would lead to new products in health care, new medicines, new ways of treating disease? Would we not have our hospitals and our medical colleges and our universities honed in on the great goal that we are going to be articulating?

This is so important to me personally and, I believe, to our country, to focus our energies, our innate initiatives that have served us so well over the years, into this goal of humanitarian capacity in such a way that it benefits every strata of our society; not just the health care community, but everyone in the community who, in one way or another, will have to come into contact with the health care system and with those things that benefit humanity.

I have had discussions about this with individuals at the National Institutes of Health, with people in the medical universities, with newsmen and media people who have more than a passing interest in this kind of issue, and have found a warm reception in every one of those projections.

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So I would invite my colleagues to join with me in this bill. We would create this commission, we all would have input as to the ways and means that they would adopt for achieving this national goal, and then when our time is completed in the Congress of the United States, we will have laid the groundwork for a 21st century replete with American accomplishment.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundegran, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.J. Res. 91. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to Apalachicola-Chatahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact.

H.J. Res. 92. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact.

H.J. Res. 101. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 738. An act to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes.

NAFTA IS NOT GOOD FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KUCINICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, for those who have been following the debate over fast track, I would just like to review a few facts. First of all, fast track is legislation which provides for expedited congressional consideration. It is called fast track because it is a way to force through Congress an up-or-down vote on a major trade package. Those who are interested in the history of this should remember that fast-track authority was first granted by the Congress in 1974. It gave the President the ability to move along trade agreements.

In 1994, fast track expired, after the approval of NAFTA and the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, also known as GATT.

What is happening now is that the President is asking for renewed fast-track authority and wants to expand NAFTA and the free trade zone to Chile and the other South American countries, and he wants trade agreements with even more countries as well, using the fast-track legislation.

We must keep in mind that fast track does not provide for any amendments, so that this Congress has no ability to change the terms of the fast-track agreement and, therefore, to have an impact on American trade policy. The reason why so many of us in Congress are concerned about this issue is this: I would like to look at the effect that NAFTA has had, because we are really talking about expanding NAFTA here, at northeastern Ohio.

Now, I am from the State of Ohio, I am in the 10th Congressional District in Ohio, and I represent an area that includes the city of Cleveland and surrounding suburbs. My constituents include auto workers, steel workers, and their families. They are very dependent on the auto industry and the steel industry for jobs. These are people who have fought for this country, who believe in this country, who have given much to this country, who helped to build this country through building the major industries with their labor. Americans secured its freedom through our strategic industrial base of steel, automotive and aerospace, and the people in Cleveland have been an important part of that.

But when a report came out a few months ago on NAFTA, it was learned once and for all how the people of Cleveland and how communities like ours across the United States have been adversely affected by NAFTA. We found out that U.S. exports to Mexico have been inconsequential, a little over \$1 billion in the 3 years covered by the study, that Mexico was not the consumer market that everyone said it would be. We were promised that there was going to be expanded trade with Mexico.

Well, the fact of the matter is, workers in Mexico who are making 90 cents an hour cannot buy cars made in the

United States that cost \$16,000. The truth is that Mexico has become increasingly an export platform for vehicles sold in the United States. U.S. auto imports from Mexico are more than 10 times the value of U.S. exports to Mexico. And most importantly, the U.S. auto trade deficit has grown since NAFTA by about 400 percent to \$14.6 billion, from \$3.6 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the business of politics is a very complex business, as those of us who have been in politics for a while understand, and even those who have the best of intentions often are not able to get to their goals that they have stated in promises in order to achieve support for their proposals.

There were many promises made to secure support for NAFTA years ago, a few short years ago, and those promises moved votes in this House. Those promises caused people to have hope that somehow NAFTA that we are voting on in the next 2 days, an agreement that would expand NAFTA, that NAFTA would benefit the constituencies which we represent. People were promised that NAFTA would create 200,000 new U.S. jobs. All of us remember that promise.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the United States has lost more than 430,000 jobs due to NAFTA. For example, Kodak will cut 14,000 jobs and shift production to Mexico. The U.S. people were promised that the United States would inspect imported food for pesticides. Well, we know, the truth is that inspections of illegal pesticides on imported food have actually decreased, and we have seen the consequences with the great strawberry scare of a few months ago where school children in a few States were adversely affected by the pesticides which were put on strawberries.

Mr. Speaker, NAFTA has not produced benefits for the American people. It has increased the trade deficit; it puts downward pressure on wages, and I am hopeful that within 4 hours NAFTA will be soundly defeated through us defeating fast track and coming back with a plan to make our trade agreements in this country fairer to the American workers and to their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SPECIAL ORDER IN MEMORY OF JOHN STURDIVANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow over the passing of John Sturdivant. His death is a great loss not only